United Nations S/2014/216

Security Council

Distr.: General
25 March 2014
English
Original: Arabic

Identical letters dated 24 March 2014 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I should like to convey to you the observations of the Syrian Arab Republic regarding the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1701 (2006) for the period from 14 November 2013 to 27 February 2014 (S/2014/130).

1. The Syrian Arab Republic remains committed to cooperating with Lebanon in order to ensure respect for the national sovereignty and territorial integrity of the two kindred countries, and thereby foster the security and stability of both countries, avoid undermining each other's national security or stability, and achieve the supreme interests of both countries.

2. The Syrian Arab Republic recalls that Security Council resolution 1701 (2006) was adopted as a result of Israel's military aggression against Lebanon. Accordingly, the Secretary-General's reports should conform to the mandate set out in the resolution, instead of deviating from its primary objective. It is surprised that the Secretary-General persists in mentioning Syria in his reports on the implementation of the resolution, including by making reference to matters that are outside the resolution's scope, such as the question of displaced Syrians in Lebanon, and by addressing matters that pertain to the national sovereignty of both countries, such as the demarcation of their borders.

3. The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic rejects Israel's inflammatory claims concerning the smuggling of weapons from Syria to certain political actors in Lebanon. Those claims are meant to achieve political aims that are known to all. What is surprising, however, is the insistence of some individuals at the United Nations that such malicious allegations should be included in the Secretary-General's reports, although it is acknowledged that the allegations cannot be investigated. This is a stark and puzzling contradiction in the position of the United Nations Secretariat. What is even more puzzling is that the Secretariat should include allegations that Hizbullah is intervening in Syria and ignore the fact that Lebanese political movements are openly sponsoring, protecting and supporting the takfirist terrorist groups that are active in many parts of Lebanon. Those movements are also providing the terrorists with political and logistical support, and that has enabled them to turn those areas into a rear base for terrorist groups that are active in areas next to the Lebanese border.

4. The Syrian Arab Republic stresses that it is important for the Security Council and the reports of the Secretary-General to avoid double standards with regard to counter-terrorism and the threat that terrorism represents to Syria. Events in Lebanon and Iraq have proven that terrorism is not confined to a particular State, but that the threat extends to the countries of the entire region and beyond.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic
to the United Nations